யே கொஞ்சம் தள்ளிவைக்க, அதற்காக ஏற்பாடு செய்துவரப்படுகி றது. இதைப்பற்றி முனிஸிபாலிடி கவர்மெண்டுடன் கரஸ்பாண்டென்ஸ் நடத்திவருகிறார்கள். கவர்மெண்டும் ஆவசியம்போல் செய்வார்கள். நீங்கள் சொன்ன பாக்கி சமாசாரங்களை கவர்மெண்டு ஆலோசிப்பார்கள்.

[In regard to the diversion of the drain, the Chief Engineer and the Municipality to whom the subject was referred are of the opinion that there is no need for doing so.

You said that the fish market should be removed from its present site. Steps are being taken to acquire some more land for the market and to shift it a little on that site itself. The Municipality is considering the question. The Municipality is carrying on correspondence with the Government on the subject. The Government will do the needful in the matter. The Government will consider the rest of your representations.]

80. Municipal Needs of Nagercoil.

Mr. P. KOLAPPA PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Nagercoil*) first spoke about the importance of a water supply scheme for the Nagercoil town, especially in view of the increasing population and the consequent congestion in the town and the frequent outbreak of such epidemics as cholera and typhoid, on account of lack of good drinking water. The subject was one which had engaged the attention of the Government and the Municipal Council for the past few years. To a representation on the subject at the last session of the Assembly, Government said that the question could be taken up only after the completion of the Trivandrum Water Supply Scheme. But what was required was not the immediate carrying out of the scheme, but only the preparation of a feasible scheme of water supply to be carried out later on. It was not necessary that that should wait till the completion of the Trivandrum Water Works. The Municipality had formulated some proposals for the supply of water to the town on a smaller scale. In case there was any delay in putting into operation the scheme on a large scale, at least the Municipality's present proposals should be given effect to and the Government should render some financial help towards it.

The member next referred to the question of financing the Maternity and Child Welfare centre, by the Government. The institution was opened two years back and was doing very useful work. But the financial condition of the Municipal Council did not permit of any substantial help from the Council towards the proper maintenance of the institution. Further, it was not one of the obligatory functions of the Municipality. Hence the Government should sanction a liberal grant towards the recurring expenditure on the institution. The Municipality had recently requested that the local civil jail building

might be made available for establishing a Maternity home with free and pay wards. This should also be favourably considered by the Government.

Thirdly, the member referred to the necessity for the Government financing the Leprosy Clinic. It was a very useful institution started under the auspices of the Public Health Department. The maintenance of the institution was also not an obligatory function of the Municipality. Further, many non-residents of the town were benefited by the institution. Recently the Government had sanctioned half the initial expenditure incurred on the institution, to a maximum of Rs. 250 being contributed by the Government. It was the recurring expenditure on the institution, rather than the initial cost, that was a burden to the municipal funds. Hence a liberal grant should be sanctioned, for the proper upkeep of the institution, by the Government.

The member next referred to the question of depositing municipal funds in Co-operative Banks. By a general circular to all the Municipalities, the Government had vetoed the proposal of the Council to deposit the surplus funds in the Nagercoil People's Co-operative Bank, Ltd. As a general order the decision of the Government might be justifiable, considering the unsound financial position of certain Municipalities in the State, as well as the unsatisfactory working of the Co-operative Banks in those localities. But the Nagercoil Municipality and the Nagercoil People's Co-operative Bank stood on a different footing altogether. The Co-operative Bank was working very satisfactorily and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, under whom the statutory audit of the Bank was being conducted every year, would testify to its future stability. Further the Co-operative Bank paid 4 per cent interest for current account, whereas the Government Treasury did not pay any interest for the same. The depositing of the municipal funds in the Bank would also raise the status of the Bank and would give more confidence to the depositing public. Municipalities and Co-operative Banks, which were democratic institutions, should be encouraged by a policy of non-intervention.

The member next referred to the desirability of introducing Provident Fund system, instead of pension, among the municipal employees. Such a system was more beneficial to the employees. The Municipalities also would be benefited, as the present system of paying one-sixth of the pay of the employees to the Government, as contribution for pension, was a severe strain on municipal funds. The Municipal Regulation provided for the framing by Government rules regarding the management and regulation of provident funds and for the Municipalities making bye-laws in the matter, consistent with the Rules issued by the Government. The Government should issue the necessary Rules at a very early date.

Lastly, the member pointed out about the difficulty experienced in the existing procedure adopted in recording the votes of illiterate

voters in the election of Municipal Councillors. At present, the voters had to strike off from the ballot paper the names of the candidates for whom they were not voting. But those who were accustomed to vote in the Legislative Council elections were often tempted to put a cross mark against the name of the candidate preferred by them, thus making the ballot paper invalid. Hence it was desirable that the method followed in the recording of votes in Legislative Council elections was followed in the case of municipal elections also. That aspect of the question should also be considered in amending the Rules.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kolappa Pillai. The question of the water supply scheme relating to Nagercoil will be duly considered. So also the question of the grant to the Maternity and Child Welfare centre.

You mentioned something about the rules for Provident Fund. Even now there is nothing to prevent the Municipality from framing bye-laws in regard to Provident Fund. Anyhow that also will be considered.

The modifications to rules that you wanted will be referred to the Law Member and he will be asked to consider the introduction of suitable provisions in the new Municipal Bill under preparation.

MEMBER: I also referred to the deposit of municipal funds in the Co-operative Banks.

DEWAN: I was going to tell you that the other matters you represented would be considered by Government. But as you are anxious for a reply on this subject, I will say that, under the Municipal Regulation, there is a duty cast upon the Government to see that the municipal funds are invested in such a way that there is reasonable security for them and not to allow them to be invested in such a way as to merely encourage particular institutions. This is one of the main considerations that Government have to keep in mind. But I may assure you that Government do not stand in the way of investments being made in any particular institution except on grounds of security.

81. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

MR. R. S. SUBRAMONIA PILLAI (*Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) spoke about the following needs of the Kalkulam taluk :—

1. A few public wells should be sunk at Aloor and Thalakulam. Those two places were thickly populated and there was great scarcity of good drinking water. The poor people were put to much hardship their only source of water supply being a few neglected tanks in the locality. Lack of good drinking water was the cause of such epidemics as cholera, the utter ravages of which among the people of Kalkulam during 1104 and 1105, were still fresh in memory. The Government should bestow their early attention on this important matter.